

The Linacre Quarterly

Volume 13 | Number 3

Article 3

July 1945

The Agreement between the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds and the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, part 1

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guild (1945) "The Agreement between the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds and the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, part 1," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 13: No. 3, Article 3.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol13/iss3/3>

THE AGREEMENT *between the* FEDERATION of
CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILDS
and the
CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION *of the*
UNITED STATES *and* CANADA

THE relationship between the Catholic Hospital Association and the Catholic Physicians' Guilds is defined in an agreement which was signed on August 3, 1945. The agreement recites in its preamble, the various steps which have been taken in bringing about the present relationship between the Association and the Federation. The request to affiliate the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds with the National Catholic Welfare Conference was the first step in the initiation of the new relationship. From this step, there followed the appointment of the present writer as Moderator of the Federation but only after his acceptability in that capacity had been indicated by a vote of the constituent Guilds of the Federation.

The first paragraph of the preamble points out that the Moderator is also President of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada. This fact makes the next step in the development of the new relationship possible, namely, the request to the officers of the Catholic Hospital Association by the Executive Committee of the Federation to assume the business management and administration of the Federation. By further action of the Executive Committee of the Federation, the Moderator was requested to act as Editor and Manager of the Federation's official organ, *The Linacre Quarterly* and in these capacities, to supply whatever services seem to him to be necessary for the successful conduct of this Journal. It should be noted that these actions of the Executive Committee before their accomplishment, were submitted to the mail vote of the constituent Guilds of the Federation at the request of the Executive Committee acting through its President.

Under the date of September 13, 1944, the President of the Federation, Dr. John J. Masterson, requested the Guilds to express their votes on the following questions:

1. Do you approve of the proposal to have the Officers of the Catholic Hospital Association assume responsibility for the business management and administration of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds?

2. Do you approve of the transfer of *The Linacre Quarterly* to the Reverend Alphonse Schwitalla as Editor and manager, or to be provided for by him according to his discretion?
3. Do you approve of the choice of Father Alphonse Schwitalla as moderator of the Federation?

On January 5, 1945, the present writer was officially notified that "Favorable replies to the questionnaire were received from the Officers and from all but one Guild."

Since the Catholic Hospital Association was regarded by the Executive Committee of the Federation and by the Guilds as having the facilities for acting as an agent in the business management of the Federation itself and of the official journal, the various newly proposed responsibilities were carefully studied by the Executive Board of the Catholic Hospital Association. This Board realized the many areas of overlapping interest of the Association and of the Federation. In its desire to further the many worthy, ideal, and spiritual purposes, the Executive Board of the Catholic Hospital Association expressed its readiness to the Executive Committee of the Federation to accept responsibility for the business management and the administration of the Federation as well as of *The Linacre Quarterly*. At the same time, the Executive Committee of the Federation elected the Executive Secretary of the Catholic Hospital Association, Mr. M. R. Kneiff, as the Acting Executive Secretary of the Federation.

Thus far the preamble. There follows the definition of the new relationship which is based on an agreement between the Executive Board of the Catholic Hospital Association and the Executive Committee of the Federation acting officially for their respective organizations.

It is made definite and unmistakably clear in the first article of the agreement that the new relationship in no way changes the responsibility of the Federation or of its officers for the self-determination of the Federation. In other words, the Federation retains the responsibility and the obligation for determining its own policies, procedures, programs, and public relations. The Catholic Hospital Association acquires in the new relationship, no new obligations or responsibilities except those which have been explicitly voted by the Executive Committee of the Federation and accepted by the Association.

The second article appoints the Catholic Hospital Association as an agent of the Federation for the administration and management of the latter. In its capacity "as an agent" of the Federation, the Catholic Hospital Association agrees to offer to the Federation, the services of such members of its personnel as may be necessary for the management and the administration of the Federation together with necessary office facilities, equipment, and supplies. General office service will be furnished

without charge to the Federation but identifiable and separable expenses incurred directly for the Federation will be chargeable to the Federation. The office of the Catholic Hospital Association will also act as an agency for the collection of membership dues and as custodian of the funds thus collected. A bank account in the name of the Federation will be maintained and periodical financial reports will be furnished by the Catholic Hospital Association to the officers of the Federation. The records of all the transactions of the Federation, the financial accounts, the membership records, the minutes of its meetings and of its Executive Committee as well as the archives of the Federation, will be maintained by the Catholic Hospital Association.

In general, the Catholic Hospital Association pledges itself to work for the promotion of the Federation's purposes and ideals, as far as possible with the same interest and intensity of effort as it gives to the promotion of its own purposes and ideals.

All of the pledges made by the Catholic Hospital Association shall be understood to include any activities required of the Association with reference to the official organ, *The Linacre Quarterly*.

This journal, of course, remains the property of the Federation. Since its editor is a priest and a religious, censorship and other canonical consequences are involved in its publication. The Editor has received from His Excellency, the Most Reverend Archbishop of St. Louis, the necessary faculties for the editorship and publication of *The Linacre Quarterly*, and has received permission to use in the mast head of the journal the much valued and important words, "Published with Ecclesiastical Authorization."

The last article of the agreement emphasizes the community of interest which the Federation and the Association have "in the promotion of Catholic ideals and viewpoints in medical practice and hospital service on all the various levels of medical interest." The document is signed by Dr. John J. Masterson, President, and Dr. Maurice C. O'Shea, Secretary of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds and by Alphonse M. Schwitalla, S. J., President, and Sister Helen Jarrell, Secretary, for the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada. The exact text of the agreement is herewith reprinted.